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of these women from the standpoint of conditions prevailing in the business, in the school, and in the homes from which these girls and women come.

More than 500,000 women in the United States are employed in office service. "It ranks among the foremost occupations for women in its opportunities for development and advancement and in the superior conditions of work" (p. 172). Up to the present time, however, adequate vocational training for office service has not been provided either by private business schools or by the public high schools. The investigation shows education to be the most important influence determining the kind of work a girl can enter, the initial wage, and the length of experience necessary to secure a higher wage. The longest and the broadest possible preliminary training is urged and the close correlation of the general course in the high schools with the special vocational training. Responsibility for the adequacy of this training is placed upon educator, vocational guide, or placement agent, and upon the business man. Definite principles for the guidance of each are given, some of which (as is suggested in the Introduction to the volume) have already been incorporated in the New Clerical School of Boston and in new commercial courses introduced in the general high schools.

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*Negro Culture in West Africa.* By GEORGE W. ELLIS, K.C., F.R.G.S., formerly Secretary of the U.S. Legation in Liberia. Introduction by FREDERIC R. STARR, PH.D., SC.D., Professor and Curator of Anthropology in the University of Chicago. New York, 1914. Pp. 290, 2 charts, 32 illustrations, map, and index.

This book is not, as the title might suggest, a description of the institutions and social life of West Africa as a whole. It is rather an intimate study of a single tribe, the Vais, whom the writer, for a number of years secretary of the United States legation at Monrovia, Liberia, had unusual opportunities to know. The Vais occupy a small strip of territory on the borders of Liberia and Sierra Leone, between the Western Highlands of the Soudan and the coast. They are a Mohammedan people, as yet but slightly influenced by contact with Christian missionaries. They have a unique distinction of being the only Negro group which has invented an alphabet of its own. This alphabet, the

existence of which was first made known in 1849, was invented by Doalu Búkere, who, as a boy, had learned to read in a mission school. An interesting circumstance, in this connection, from the point of view of recent psychology of the subconscious, is the fact that the inventor of this alphabet was induced to undertake this difficult task by a dream in which "a tall, venerable-looking white man, in a long coat," appeared to him, saying that he had been sent "to bring you this book, in order that you may take it to the rest of the people."

The volume contains six engravings of Vai script and, in addition, a discussion of Vai social institutions, a discussion of the influence of Mohammedanism in West Africa, fifty examples of Vai folklore stories, and one hundred and fourteen proverbs illustrating the Vai philosophy of life. Although the author's observations, as recorded in this volume, have been confined pretty clearly to one tribe, the introduction to the volume, written by Professor Starr, informs us that the culture which Mr. Ellis describes is fairly representative.

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*Japan to America.* A Symposium of Papers by Political Leaders and Representative Citizens of Japan on Conditions in Japan and on the Relations between Japan and the United States. Edited by NAOICHI MASAOKA. Authorized American Edition, Issued under the Auspices of the Japan Society of America, with Introduction by LINDSAY RUSSELL, President of Japan Society. New York and London: Putnam, 1914. Pp. xii+235. \$1.25.

This somewhat minutely descriptive title-page relieves the reviewer of much of his responsibility. However, by way of amplification and explanation, it may be noted first of all that the Japan Society of America was organized in New York some ten years ago "to promote friendly relations between the United States and Japan and to diffuse among the American people a trustworthy knowledge of the people of Japan, of their arts, sciences, industries, and economic condition, and of their aims and ideals." The present membership of the Society comprises about nine hundred Americans and one hundred Japanese.

The editor of *Japan to America* accompanied Baron Komura to the conference at Portsmouth which terminated the Russo-Japanese War. Later he visited America with a party of Japanese business men who came